

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 INT-05

OES-06 NSF-01 DODE-00 FEAE-00 CEQ-01 TRSE-00 EPA-01

ACDA-07 NSC-05 COME-00 CIAE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SMI-01 OIC-02 /096 W

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R 222125Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8602

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USUN NEW YORK 1300

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3714

DEPT PASS NSF POLAR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: XV, TGEN, CI

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC MINERAL RESOURCES

REF: STATE 90712

1. REGIONAL S&T COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF TOUCHED ON CHILEAN
ATTITUDE TOWARD MINERAL RESOURCES ISSUE DURING ROUTINE ANNUAL
COURTESY CALL ON CHILEAN ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE DIRECTOR CAPT.
HERNAN LORCA. WHILE LORCA INDICATED FINAL CHILEAN POSITION
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NOT REPEAT NOT YET DECIDED, WE HAVE IMPRESSION HIS VIEWPOINT
WILL BE MOST INFLUENTIAL.

2. CHILE'S INTERESTS ARE PRIMARILY RELATED TO LIVING RESOURCES OF ANTARCTIC WATERS, WHICH ARE CLOSEST TO BEING OF SOME REAL ECONOMIC INTEREST TO CHILE. THUS, INTEREST OF FRG, JAPANESE, AND OTHERS IN EXPLOITATION OF KRILL APPEARS TO BE PRINCIPAL MOTIVATION FOR CHILE TO PUSH TOWARD RESOLUTION OF RESOURCES ISSUE. ISSUE IS COMPLEX, HOWEVER, AS KRILL CAN BE FOUND IN DRAKE PASSAGE AND OTHER WATERS FAR NORTH OF ANTARCTIC CONTINENT.

3. LORCA WILL ATTEND THREE SCAR MEETINGS AT CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND, BEGINNING MAY 10. LORCA SEES AN IMPORTANT CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE MEETINGS, WHICH WILL BE CONCERNED WITH BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION, AND THE SUBSEQUENT PARIS JUNE MEETING, WHICH HE WILL ALSO ATTEND. THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES WILL, HE FEELS, HAVE TO CONSIDER SCAR'S OPINIONS ON RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION. THE MENDOZA OCTOBER SCAR MEETING WILL THUS ALSO BE VERY IMPORTANT.

4. WHEN IT COMES TO MINERAL RESOURCES ON THE CONTINENT, LORCA SEES THIS AS COMPLEX PROBLEM AND NON-SEPARABLE FROM ISSUE OF ANTARCTIC CLAIMS. ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION HE (PERSONAL OPINION) ENVISIONS FOR JOINT EXPLOITATION OF DEPOSITS, E.G., JOINT U.S.- CHILEAN WORKING OF A DEPOSIT IN THE CHILEAN-CLAIMED TERRITORY. OTHER POSSIBILITY, PARTICULARLY FOR UNCLAIMED REGIONS, WOULD BE JOINT SPONSORSHIP BY ALL TREATY PARTIES. ENFORCEMENT NEEDS TO BE ARRANGED, HOWEVER, AS OTHERWISE IT WILL BE NO BETTER THAN FOR AGREEMENT ON CONSERVATION OF SEALS. HE MENTIONED THAT SOVIETS PREVIOUSLY FAVORED SEVEN-YEAR MORATORIUM ON PROBLEM RESOURCE EXPLOITATION AND SAID HE BELIEVED REASON WAS THAT SOVIETS NEEDED THE TIME TO BECOME TECHNICALLY CAPABLE OF SUCH EFFORT. HE CONCLUDED THEREFORE THAT DELAY ON EXPLOITATION ISSUES WOULD WORK TO ADVANTAGE OF SOVIETS.

5. LORCA PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON APPROXIMATELY MAY 7 AND 8, PRIMARILY FOR MEETINGS WITH NSF POLAR PERSONNEL. WE SUGGEST THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM BY DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ON THIS ISSUE MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL.

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6. RE CHILEAN CLAIM, LORCA NOTED THAT IT WAS OLDER THAN ARGENTINE OR U.K. CLAIMS, AND FURTHER THAT U.S. HAD SUPPORTED CHILE IN I
EBXRING WW'S I AND II.

7. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT CHILEANS FEEL STRONGLY THAT THEY MUST MAINTAIN AND BUTTRESS THEIR ANTARCTIC CLAIMS. A NATIONALISTIC MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE THE ONE TO FORESWEAR THEM, UNLESS IT GETS CLEAR ADVANTAGE FROM DOING SO. THIS SAID, CHILEANS SHOULD BE REALISTIC ENOUGH TO

BALANCE OFF THIR VARIOUS INTERESTS. OUR OVERALL IMPRESSION
FROM LORCA NONETHELESS IS OF SOMEWHAT LESS URGENCY CONCERNING
RESOLUTION OF RESOURCES ISSUE THAN WAS CONVEYED BY AMBASSADOR
ZEGERS AS REPORTED REEEL. WE NOT REPEAT NOT SO SURE THAT
CHILE WILL BE ABLE BRING ARGENTINA AROUND, BUT DO AGREE
CHILEAN POSITIONS SEEMS CLOSER TO OUR OWN. WE SUGGEST FURTHER
CONSULTATIONS WITH LORCA IN WASHINGTON AND BY US DEL IN PARIS
AS WELL AS CLOSE TIE-IN WITH SCAR MEETINGS IN U.K.

8. SEPTTEL REPORTS SEPARATE TALK WITH FONMINISTRY OFFICIAL.
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